Status of Ranchi-Vijayawada N.H.

†368. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of proposed Ranchi-Vijayawada National Highway as on date;

(b) by when this work is likely to be completed; and

(c) the approach of Governments of those States towards this project through which this highway would be passing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The proposal of the Government of Orissa to declare the Ranchi-Vijayawada road as National Highway was received but the Planning Commission has suggested to develop this route to two-lane highway as an integrated project by the Central and State Governments through various available funding options. In this regard, Chief Minister of Orissa has forwarded a proposal to the Prime Minister on 12.06.2006 suggesting tentative funding options within a time frame of 3 to 4 years and sought formal approval of the Central Government. It is too early to indicate the date of completion of this mega project.

Out of the total length of 1673 km, entire length of about 454 km. of this route falling in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand and about 227 km in Orissa is already National Highways. Remaining 992 km is part of state highways and rural roads. Central Government is developing these National Highways depending upon traffic need and availability of funds.

Promotion of waterways

†369. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increasing pressure on the sources of fuel can be decreased by promoting traffic through waterways in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the total length of waterways in the country being used for traffic purpose; and

(d) the percentage of waterways traffic *vis-a-vis* country's total road transport?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) If developed with required infrastructure, Inland Water Transport (IWT) can become an effective supplementary mode of transport in such areas where viable waterways are possible. This will help in decreasing the pressure on the rail and road sectors and, consequently, on the sources of fuel. The Government is developing IWT infrastructure with a view to increasing transportation of cargo and passengers through this mode. In this process, three waterways namely; the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 km.), the river Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km.), and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals (205 km.) have been declared as National Waterways and are being developed for shipping and navigation. Three more waterways namely: Kakinada-Pondicherry Canals alongwith Godavari and Krishna rivcers (1095 km.), East Coast Canal alongwith Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta (623 km.) and river Barak (152 km) are under consideration for declaration as new national Waterways. In addition, to encourage the State Governments to develop IWT sector, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in force under which 100% grant for North-Eastern States and 90% grant to other States is provided.

(c) The total length of three existing National Waterways is 2716 kilometers. Besdies, Inland Water Transportation by organized sector also takes place in Assam, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal etc. In addition, transportation of men and material through country boats takes place in many big and small rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, lakes etc.

(d) As per data availabale, the freight in terms of tons km. transported by IWT and Road Modes during 2003-04 and 2004-05 is as under:—

Year	Road Transport (million tons kms.)	Inland Water Transport (million tons kms.)	%age
2003-04	6,00,000	1500	0.25%
2004-05	6,13,000	2470	040%